



# PRESS PACKET

BIOGRAPHY OF COL. MICHAEL X. GARRETT

"SPARTAN" 4TH BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM (AIRBORNE)  
FACT SHEET

BRIGADE HISTORY

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY

MISSION STATEMENT

FUTURE

# THE COMMANDER OF THE SPARTANS

Col. Michael X. Garrett graduated from Xavier University in 1984 with a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice and was commissioned in the United States Army as an Infantryman.

Garrett's first assignment was as platoon leader and executive officer in the 3rd Battalion, 19th Infantry at Fort Stewart, Ga.

After being selected to serve in the Ranger Regiment, Garrett served as platoon leader and executive officer in the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment at Hunter Army Airfield.

Upon completing the Infantry Officer Advanced Course, Garrett served as staff officer and then assumed command of CSC, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry and later assumed command of the Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Hovey, Korea.

After his command of HHC, 2-503rd, Garrett was selected as an aide-de-camp for commander, 2nd Infantry Division.

Garrett then returned to the Ranger Regiment in Fort Benning, Ga., where he initially served as the assistant operations officer on the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment and then assumed command of Company A, 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.

Following command with the 3-75th Ranger Regiment, Garrett served on the 75th Ranger Regiment staff as the Ranger Liaison Officer to Pacific Command, ACOM, and Southern Command.

In 1995, Garrett attended the Command and General Staff College and was sent to Fort Lewis, Washington where he served as the Battalion Liaison Officer and Operations officer for 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.

After two years at Fort Lewis, Garrett was assigned to United States Pacific Command as a Regional Exercises Officer and Training Chief of the Deployable Joint Force Augmentation Cell.

In June 2000, Garrett took command of the 3rd Battalion, 325th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Infantry Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Following command with 3-325th AIR, Garrett became the 18th Airborne Corps Chief of Current Operations serving both at Fort Bragg and Bagram, Afghanistan. In June 2003, Garrett was assigned to the United States Military Academy, serving as the 2nd Regimental Tactical Officer, United States Corp of Cadets and then



as the Brigade Tactical officer.

In July 2004, Garrett became the Director, Department of Military Instruction.

Col. Garrett assumed command of 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division on Feb. 15, 2005.

In October 2006, Garrett deployed the unit in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Garrett's military education includes the Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, and the Command and General Staff College. Garrett is also a senior service college selectee.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (3 OLC), Army Commendation Medal (2 OLC), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Ranger Tab, Expert Infantryman Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Pathfinder Badge, and Air Assault Badge.



# HISTORY OF THE SPARTANS

The 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division is the Army's newest Airborne unit. The "Spartan Brigade" was officially formed July 15, 2005, at Fort Richardson, Alaska.

The Brigade is the first new Airborne unit created in the U.S. Army since the end of World War II and is the only Airborne unit west of the Mississippi River.

Located on the outskirts of Anchorage, Alaska, the Spartan Brigade is a strategic asset to the DOD's Pacific Command and a quick reaction force capable of deploying anywhere in the world in 18 hours or less.

Since the Brigade was formed, the Spartans have conducted training missions all over the



world. The Paratroopers have conducted parachute operations and mass attack airborne assaults on three different continents, in both hemispheres and at both of the national training centers

in the U.S.

In its first year, the Spartan Brigade conducted more than 10 Battalion sized and two Brigade sized field training exercises.

The Paratroopers of the Spartan Brigade have trained in the jungles of Thailand, the deserts of the Australian Outback and the American Southwest. They conducted operational training in -60 degree weather near the Arctic Circle and the 120 degree heat of the swamps of La., all in preparation for their deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In October 2006, a little over a year after the Spartan Brigade was created, it deployed to southern Iraq and took over operational control of the Babil, Karbala and Najaf provinces.



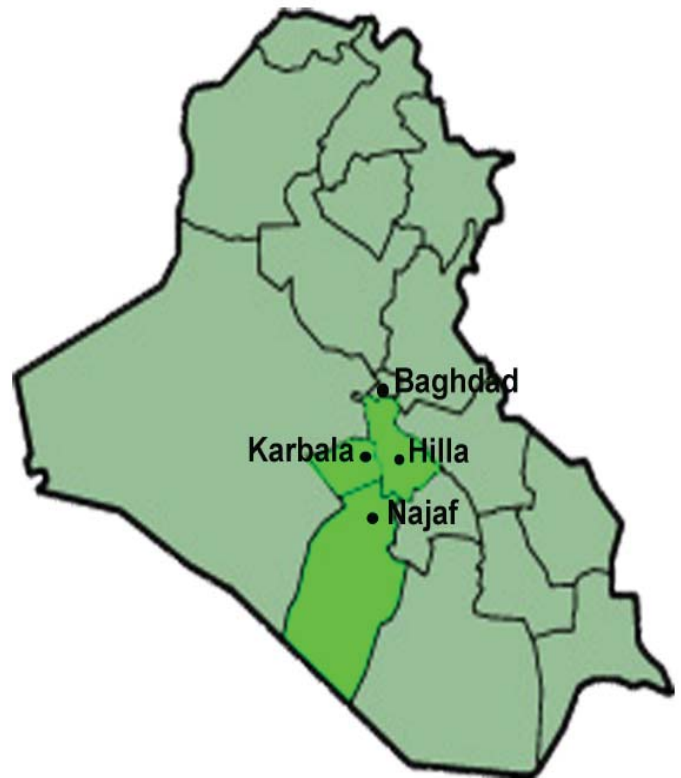
# WELCOME TO SPARTA

The 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division's area of responsibility covers a large section of southern Iraq, stretching from Baghdad to the Saudi Arabian border. The area is made up of the Babil, Karbala and Najaf provinces and covers roughly 25,000 square miles, which is an area about the size of West Virginia.

There are more than 3.5 million people living in the area, representing the entire ethnic population. There are large sections of Shia and Sunni and smaller sections of Kurdish and other sects living throughout the region.

The Brigade is partnered with a battalion from the 6th and a battalion from the 8th Iraqi Army Divisions. It also works closely with the elite Hilla Iraqi Police Special Weapons and Tactics team to provide security to the region.

The Najaf Province was turned over to Provincial Iraqi Control Dec. 20th and the Brigade is working closely with the local governments of the other provinces in order to turn over control by early summer.



## THE PROVINCES

### Babil province

The province has an area of 6,468 km<sup>2</sup>, with an estimated population of 1,751,900 people in 2003. The provincial capital is the town of al Hillah. The city Al Musayyib and the ancient ruins of Babylon (Babil, after which the region is named) are also in the province.



### Karbala province

The capital is the city of Karbala, a holy city for Shi'ite Muslims; it houses the shrine of Imam Hussein, a deeply revered figure in Shi'ite Islam. The estimated population in 2003 was 572,300 people. Shi'ite Muslim pilgrims flood into the city to visit the shrine.



### Najaf province

The province has an area of 28,824 km<sup>2</sup>. In 2003 it had an estimated population of 931,600 people. The Najaf Governorate is the third Governorate in Iraq to be handed over by the Coalition forces to Iraqi control.





# THE SPARTAN'S MISSION

OUR MISSION INCLUDES SEVERAL TASKS, ALL WHICH LEAD TO RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECURITY BEING TURNED OVER TO THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ. WE CONDUCT COUNTER-INSURGENCY OPERATIONS IN ORDER TO STOP TERRORISM IN THE AREA. WE SAFEGUARD AND IMPROVE KEY INFRASTRUCTURE IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE AREA'S PEOPLE.



WE ALSO SUPPORT AND HELP IMPROVE THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO CREATE A FREE AND INDEPENDENT SOCIETY. WE PROMOTE

ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE AND ASSIST IN CREATING A STABLE AND SECURE ENVIRONMENT TO ENSURE A BETTER LIFE FOR THE PEOPLE LIVING IN THE AREA. THE 4TH BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM (AIRBORNE), 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION IS DEVOTED TO SUPPORTING THE FLEDGLING PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS AND SECURITY FORCES IN ORDER TO TRANSFER SECURITY AND GOVERNANCE RESPONSIBILITY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ.



# LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The Paratroopers of the Spartan Brigade are dedicated to helping improve the quality of life for the people of AO Sparta. This includes working with Iraqi Security Forces to provide a safe, secure environment and helping to develop infrastructure to provide employment opportunities.

Right now, the Spartans have nearly \$25 million in ongoing projects throughout the region.

Work is being done to improve water and sanitation in the cities and towns. Roads and highways are being repaired and bridges being built across the area. Clinics and schools are receiving much need supplies



and funding. Work is being completed on the electrical grid to ensure everyone has a reliable source of power.

Equipment and supplies are being shipped to newly formed agricultural

unions and farmers so the area can eventually become self sufficient.

Work is also being done to help the people of Iskandariyah renovate and refurbish the Iskandariyah Industrial Complex. There is hope to eventually reemploy many worker from Iskandariyah and the surrounding areas.

The future of the area is full of promise. It is largely up to the Iraqi people to take advantage of the potential that exists in this vital region.

The Spartan Brigade hopes to fully turn over the provinces to Iraqi control by early summer and from there assist the local governments in building a secure Iraq.

